making sincere efforts to repatriate the Reang migrants from Tripura to Mizoram. Several meetings were held with the representatives of State Governments to repatriate Reang migrants from Tripura to Mizoram. On 7th August 2000, Union Home Minister, had taken a meeting with the Governments of Mizoram and Tripura and requested the Government of Mizoram to take immediate action to take them back in Mizoram. Additional Secretary (Home) has also taken meetings on 15th March, 2001 and 6th June, 2001 with the representatives of the State Governments of Mizoram and Tripura on the subject.

Special status to newly carved States

322. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend special status to Uttaranchal, as the 11th State under the special category, in view of its backwardness, strategic position and difficult terrain; and

(b) what special steps have been and are being taken for accelerated development of the other two newly carved out backward and tribal States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Union Cabinet have approved the proposal to grant Special Category State Status to Uttaranchal. The said decision will be implemented after the same is approved by the National Development Council. Placing of Uttaranchal on the list of Special Category States will be on the Agenda of the National Development Council at its next meeting which is due to be held shortly.

(b) A State Development Report for Jharkhand State for which funds have been provided by the Planning Commission to the Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur is under preparation. An action oriented approach towards accelerated development of Jharkhand will be drawn up by the State Government on the basis of

this report. At present, developmental schemes and programmes as sanctioned by the Central and State Governments are being implemented by these two States. In addition, Special Central Assistance being provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of the tribal areas of these two States.

VHP and Bajrang Dal programme for construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

†323. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the programme chalked out by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal for construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the programmes of the various organisations and the situation developing on the Ayodhya issue. In compliance with the Supreme Court's Judgement dated 24.10.1994 in the case of Dr. M. Ismali Faruqui etc. versus Union of India and others, relating to Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Central Governement, as a statutory receiver, is duty bound to maintain the *status-quo,* as on 7.1.1993 in the disputed area.

Extension of Ceasefire with NSCN (IM)

324. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended the ceasefire with North-East based terrorist group NSCN (IM) for one year;

(b) if so, whether Government have consulted the affected North-East States ande political parties before arriving at this decision; if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the reasons for such confrontation and exploding situation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.